

THE MEDICINE SHOW—Some Plain Truths About Popular Remedies for Common Ailments—A Consumers Union Publication (by the editors of Consumer Reports). Simon and Schuster, publishers, 630 Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N.Y., 1961. 250 pages, \$1.50 paper, \$3.95 cloth.

The colorful advertisements of the quack nostrums of grandfather's day are now mostly fond recollections, preserved in memorabilia of their own. However, our own modern scientific age has in no way eliminated the medical huckster: It has simply refined him while giving him greater opportunities. Everywhere we turn—from radio, newspaper, television, magazine to billboard—we are all but overwhelmed by the promises, the threats and the instructions being offered by today's "Medicine Men." Consumer's Union has become fascinated by today's mighty Medicine Show, has investigated its numerous aspects and presents its findings in a highly interesting and discriminating report.

Although this book is not intended primarily for the medical profession, it makes refreshing reading for the physician. It is necessarily concerned with many common ailments which are more annoying than dangerous—and with the multitude of popular and widely advertised "cures" for them. The authors of the Consumer's Union report have incorporated in it the thinking of many doctors, as well as consultants in related fields.

The reviewer finds it difficult to single out any one section over the others for particular commendation—but must note the good sense expressed in Chapter 7 on "Constipation and Laxatives," which debunks so many of the popularly presented myths on this subject. In their enthusiasm, the authors may at times have attacked the "brand" concept with greater zeal than necessary, but, on the whole, they have shown sound—though caustic—judgment.

We can recommend it to practitioners and their patients alike.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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A MANUAL OF CUTANEOUS MEDICINE—Donald M. Pillsbury, M.A., D.Sc. (Hon.), M.A., F.A.C.P., Professor and Chairman of Department of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Director, Commission on Cutaneous Diseases, Armed Forces Epidemiological Board; President XII International Congress of Dermatology; Walter B. Shelley, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; National Consultant in Dermatology to the Surgeons General, U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force; and Albert M. Kligman, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Professor of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1961. 430 pages, \$9.50.

Appropriately titled, "A Manual of Cutaneous Medicine" is indeed a concise, accurate, up-to-date presentation of our knowledge of the cutaneous organ, its common disease processes and a rational approach to diagnosis and therapy. Avoiding bewildering eponyms and mystical Latin nomenclature, the authors discuss clearly and succinctly the fifty-odd dermatologic problems that comprise approximately 80 per cent of problems presented by patients with cutaneous complaints. This manual includes many pictures and illustrations used by the same authors in their textbook, *Dermatology* (Saunders, 1956); however, the text is new, not merely an outline of the larger text, and many of the photographs have not before been presented. The illustrations and pictures depict the most helpful rather than the most extreme characteristics of the diseases discussed, so what one sees in the pictures is similar to what one sees in his practice rather than in a museum.

The first two chapters present the structure, physiology and biochemistry of the skin, providing the reader with a

clear idea of these relatively unknown aspects of normal skin before undertaking the study of the abnormal. Anatomy, keratinization, pigmentation, the formation and cycles of hair, the structure and function of the glands of the skin and the formation of nail are among the subjects discussed in the early chapters. There is also a short but helpful presentation of the few basic pathological reaction patterns of the various cellular components of the skin.

The chapters on dermatologic diagnosis clearly and logically explain the principles of formulating a diagnosis of cutaneous disease. They define and illustrate the primary and secondary lesions of the skin and point out how recognition of these lesions channels one's thinking toward certain diseases. Helpful diagrams stress the importance of the distribution of lesions in various disorders providing further clues in diagnosis. The essentials of the dermatologic history and further diagnostic procedures are then discussed so that having mastered this chapter, one has a systematic approach with which to attack the majority of dermatologic problems.

Subsequent chapters are devoted to the major clinical categories of cutaneous disease, each chapter discussing the different related entities comprising each category. The significant clinical and differential features are discussed, as well as present-day therapy. The modes of therapy discussed are those which time and experience have shown to be the most reliable, effective and least hazardous. Specifically notable topics include: The diagnosis and treatment of infantile eczema; the uses of Griseofulvin in superficial fungal infections; the morphology of various drug eruptions; and a formulary including the indications and uses of antibiotics, antihistamines and the corticosteroids.

This book, in the reviewer's opinion, will be of great benefit to students, house officers, and nondermatologist physicians who deal with cutaneous disease in their practices. Its concise, accurate presentation of the major classes of skin disease and the entities comprising these classes will provide the basic knowledge and diagnostic approach with which to solve and manage the unknown "rash."

CLEVE B. BAKER, M.D.

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HYPERTENSION—A Mount Sinai Hospital Monograph—Edited by Milton Mendlowitz, M.D., Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N.Y., 1961. 156 pages, \$6.50.

The field of hypertensive diseases has changed with such rapidity that the Mount Sinai Hospital has presented a symposium, bringing the subject up to date, in October, 1960. Ten chapters of authoritative nature are presented on such aspects as the etiology, pathology, clinical evaluation, drug treatment, surgical treatment, hypertension in childhood, management of hypertension in the pregnant woman, as well as a discussion of renal disease with associated hypertension and the diagnosis of pheochromocytoma. Each of the chapters presents an excellent modern review and a first-class bibliography. The new work on aldosteronism is presented by Laragh, and a discussion of the diagnosis of pheochromocytoma by determination of the metabolites of the catechols is timely indeed.

The one area which seems to the reviewer to be covered rather scantily is that of the details of drug treatment, although the authors present evidence which tends to support the efficacy of early treatment of primary hypertension.

The monograph can be recommended as a good basic review of the present status of the etiology and pathogenesis of hypertension, with a complete bibliography at the end of each chapter which permits the reader to extend his information.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.